# Star News

May 2024

Greetings Simpson Families,

It is so hard to believe that the school year is almost over! It seems that time has just flown by so quickly. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to work with the students, staff, and families of Simpson Elementary. Our school is definitely a sweet place to work and play. A special thank you also goes to our 2023-2024 PTA



**Executive Board,** (CO-PRESIDENT) MARY CATHERINE JENNINGS, (CO-PRESIDENT) MAXINE MCCLURE, (SECRETARY) MISTY RATCHFORD, (TREASURER) PHIL HEBENSTREIT, and to the entire board for always going the extra mile to support our kids. Thank you for your dedicated time, service, and commitment to our students. On behalf of the entire school, we thank you for all of your hard work!

To end, I hope that you all enjoy the last few weeks of school and just know that I am always just a phone call away if you are in need of anything throughout the summer.

Proud to be your principal, Dr. Connery



#### Dates at a Glance:

#### At-A-Glance

May 3 - Kindergarten Screening

May 14th- All Pro Dads at 7 AM

May 15-Kindergarten Screening

May 17- PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon/St. Simpson Island

May 20th-5th Grade Sock Hop from 1:30-3:00 PM

May 20th- & 22nd PTA EOY Parties

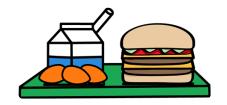
May 21 - Election Polling Day at Simpson & 5th Grade Promotion at PDHS

May 22 - 5th Grade Walk/Last Day of School at 2:30 PM

#### **Lunch Charges Suspended**

Students cannot charge for food or lunch effective immediately. If your student does not have money currently in their lunch account, they will be given an alternate meal (entrée and milk or juice.)

Thank you for your help!



Just a gentle reminder:

- Student Breakfast-\$1.50
- Student Lunch-\$2.25
- Adult Breakfast-\$2.50
- Adult Lunch-\$4.00
- Please check your student's balance to see if they have enough money to cover the meals they plan to eat through the end of the school year.



#### A NOTE REGARDING END OF YEAR ICE CREAM SALES

Simpson Superstar Parents,

Please note that we can only guarantee birthday party ice cream orders through Friday, May 10.

During the week of May 13, we will have daily ice cream sales only (no parties) and will continue daily sales until we are sold out.

Please note that Friday, May 17th, is the last day that parents and family can join their students at lunch. Thank you for your support!

#### **Kindergarten Screening Day**

We are excited to welcome our new Superstars to Simpson! Our Kindergarten teachers will test our rising Kindergarteners and complete KREP Testing on May 3rd with another screening day scheduled for May 15th.



All new student registrations (K-5) will be processed through the Gwinnett County Online Registration system (OLR). After you complete the process outlined on our website, you will be contacted and scheduled for an appointment to finalize registration. NOTE: Current students do NOT need to be registered for the next school year.

Please note, that Gwinnett County Public School District has not designated Simpson ES as a permissive transfer school. To attend Simpson ES, students must reside in our attendance zone.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call the school office or email our registration team.

Ann Marie Burnett, Registrar, ann.marie.burnett@gcpsk12.org

We are still in our Simpson Elementary Testing Window from April 22nd-May 10th.

2024 EOG Spring Main Milestones Schedule								
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
April 22 – 26	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Make-Up	Make-Up			
April 29 – May 3	Math	Math	Make-Up	Science	Make-Up			
May 6 – 10	Make-Up	Make-Up	Make-Up	Make-Up	Make-Up			

- All tests must be scheduled/administered on the assigned days as indicated above.
- All grade levels will test the same content area at the same time.
- Students taking Language Arts Part 1, may not take any other EOG assessment on the same day.
- Schools may give the Math EOG in one day or two.
- Schools may give Language Arts Parts 2 and 3 in one day or two.
- Rolling Make-ups may begin once a content window opens.
- Schools are not permitted to defer testing until the week of May 6.
  - These days are reserved for make-up testing only.



#### **Starburst Schedule**

#### Starburst Grade Level Dates/Times:

- Monday, May 13- Set up
- Tuesday, May 14- 9:45-11:30 1st & 1:15-3:00- K
- Wednesday, May 15- 9:45-11:30 & 3rd 1:15-3:00- 2nd
- Thursday, May 16- 9:45-11:30- 5th & 1:15-3:00- 4th
- Friday, May 17- Makeup day/clean up



#### **Simpson EOY Parties**

We are making arrangements for our EOY Parties to be fun and engaging outside with music, inflatables, and icy pops!

Please see your grade level times as we look forward to having "fun in the sun" this year outside on Dean Field!

#### Monday, May 20th:

Grade 2 - 10:15-11:15 AM

Grade 1 - 12:40-1:40 PM

Grade 3 - 2:00-3:00 PM

Grade 5 - 1:30-3:00 PM "Sock Hop Dance"

Tuesday, May 21st: - \*\*\*\* No EOY Parties due to Election Polling Day \*\*\*

#### Wednesday, May 22nd:

Grade 4 - 9:45-10:45 AM

Grade PreK - 11:00-12:00 PM

Grade K - 12:15-1:15 PM

Grade 5 - 1:30-2:30 PM

#### **Student Device Return Information**

As we approach the end of the 2023-24 school year, we want to communicate our plan for student device processes for our school. All devices checked out to students must be checked back into the local school at the end of the 2023-24 school year so that the tech team can begin preparing the devices for summer learning activities and the coming school year. If your student has a school-owned chromebook, devices will be returned on the designated date listed below.



When returning your device, please bring all components, including chargers; have the device fully charged, powered on, and in the condition it was issued in order to expedite the return process.

Devices will be assessed for damage upon return and fines may be assigned based on the fee schedule provided at the beginning of the year, currently available on the parent and student support sites. Fines can be paid by credit or debit card through MyPaymentsPlus. If a device is returned in good condition, no fine will be assigned. Device services will be turned off and fines for replacing the device will be assigned if a device is not returned.

If a student needs a device for summer school learning, the school will work with you to provide a device.

Thank you for your support, Simpson's Tech Team

#### **Chromebook return dates:**

Thursday, May 16: Kindergarten and 1st grade

Friday, May 17: 2nd and 3rd grades Monday, May 20: 4th and 5th grades

Tuesday, May 21: Special Education Classes



Dear Parents,

If your family identifies with any international culture or desire to learn more about other cultures, we would like to meet more families like you - we are looking for you!

Our family would love to meet other families to learn from one another and potentially form BOTH a Simpson International Night and Facebook Group. We have set up a Facebook group 'Simpson international families' group - to connect with more families and stay in touch over the school breaks as well. We think a Facebook group will make it easier for planners to coordinate, and families

to be aware of planned activities. We can also include home-schooling families within the Simpson zone, whose kids will go to the same middle school.

Together the Simpson international families can support and enrich each other's lives and create a nurturing playgroup for the students to learn languages and cultures. We can plan to organize the first international festival at Simpson Elementary next school year

Mirza Crymes' family will be happy to host a get together in early June.

If interested, please join the Facebook group <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/simpson.international.families/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/simpson.international.families/</a> or email <a href="muz.jon@gmail.com">muz.jon@gmail.com</a> to learn more.

Thanks!! Muzna Mirza Crymes

## Creativity-Character Strong Newsletter

#### School\_wide\_Creativity\_Newsletter.pdf

Download

562.2 KB

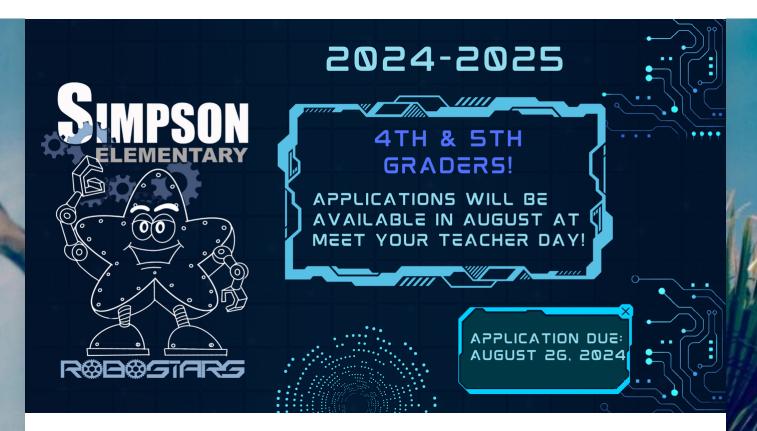
#### 2024-25 RoboStars

Good day rising 4th and 5th grade parents!

In regard to the Research and Robotics team applications: Typically, we send out applications in the spring semester and get a team together before the end of the year. The coming 2024-2025 season will consist of two teams, and we want to make sure that all students have a fair chance to apply. Since we know that a lot of changes happen during the summer months, we will be waiting until the start of the 2024-2025 school year to release applications. This helps to ensure your student will be at Simpson Elementary for the coming year and has been given every opportunity to ask questions and complete their application by the deadline. Applications will be available on Meet Your Teacher day in the fall, and outside Ms. Arnold's classroom during the first full week of school. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact the Robostar's coaches, Ms. Arnold and Ms. DeBardelaben.

Kathryn Arnold: Kathryn.Arnold@gcpsk12.org

Karen DeBardelaben: Karen.DeBardelaben@gcpsk12.org



# Norcross Junior Blue Devils Volleyball Tryouts

Norcross Junior Blue Devils Volleyball Tryouts 2024.pdf

**Download** 

87.9 KB

# Come Join the Peachtree Corners Memorial Day Challenge

 $memorial Day Challenge Flyer\_v3~(3).pdf$ 

**Download** 

2.3 MB

#### Softball Camp Hosted by Norcross HS Softball

Norcross HS Softball will be hosting a youth softball camp this summer June 11-14. Check out the flyer for details. Register at this link: <a href="https://forms.gle/X2Ai1mcj9a5HMGqP8">https://forms.gle/X2Ai1mcj9a5HMGqP8</a>







# YOUT BASKETBALL DIV CINP JUNE 17-20 Norcross High School

\$250

9am - 2pm (Monday-Thursday) Girls & Boys: Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - Rising 8<sup>th</sup>



Skill and drill fundamentals
FUN games and competitions
Individual and team instruction

Promo code "friend" \$100 off!

Daily prizes \* Camp T-Shirt \* and more!

Register at www.NorcrossBasketball.com

# Summer Baseball Camp at Norcross High School

Summer Camp July 2024.pdf

Download

1.0 MB

## Norcross Blue Devils Open Registration-Come Grow With Us!

Norcross Football and Cheerleading Open Registration.pdf

**Download** 

207.6 KB

Norcross Football and Cheerleading Open Registration-Spanish.pdf

**Download** 

213.5 KB



# SIMPSON ELEMENTARY Superstary PBIS School-Wide Expectations



7100	X <b>=</b> X				7 <b>=</b> ₹				
	Hallway	Restrooms	Classroom	Cafeteria	Playground				
Voice Levels Key: 0 = silent 1 = whisper 2 = talking voice 3 = loud voice 4 = emergency/help voice									
Voice Levels	0	0-1	0-2	0-2	2-3				
Respectful	Listen to adults	Personal space	Clean up after yourself     Fallow class procedures	Wait your turn     Uisten to adults	Follow playground rules				
Responsible	Hands to self	• Flush, Wash, Clean up, Exit	Use materials correctly	Follow cafeteria procedures     Clean up after yourself	Use equipment correctly     Listen and line up for dismissal				
Ready	• Face Forward	Wait your turn	Be prepared	Bring Materials     Sit at your table	Bring Materials				
Safe	Walk in a line on the right side of the hall	Give privacy     Wash Hands	Keep personal space     Use materials appropriately	Tell problems to an adult Stay in your area Hands to self  Tell problems to an adult  Tell problems to an adult  Tell problems to an adult Tell problems to an adult Tell problems to an adult Tell problems to an adult	Tell problems to an adult     Stay in your area				
Kind	Greet adults and students silently with a smile!	Keep restrooms clean	Use positive words	Engage in polite conversations	• Include all students in play				

#### **How Can You Support PBIS at Home?**

We encourage you to reinforce our PBIS norms at home. By doing so, you will be encouraging your child's social and academic growth.

#### **PBIS At HOME**

- Use the PBIS norms (respectful, responsible, ready, safe, and kind) at home.
- Create a visual chart outlining appropriate behaviors in different settings/locations at home. For example, what does respect look like in the kitchen?
- Post your chart somewhere where your child can easily reference it during teachable moments
- Collaborate with your child on how you will give regular positive recognition and incentives for appropriate behavior.

If you are willing to share your home PBIS chart, email it to <a href="mailto:cassidee.harris@gcpsk12.org">cassidee.harris@gcpsk12.org</a>



#### Simpson PBIS

Greetings Parents,

Simpson Elementary's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program focuses on a positive behavioral expectation schoolwide. PBIS is an approach schools use to promote school safety and good behavior. With PBIS, schools teach kids about behavior expectations, strategies, and with a primary focus on having a positive prevention, not consequences.

What is PBIS at our school?

A unified set of school wide expectations for behavior in our school. We are Simpson Superstars, so to ensure that students can easily comprehend our expectations, we have established a 5-star approach for appropriate behaviors posted throughout the school. Your child has been learning these expectations since the first few days of school.

What are the 5-Star Expectations at Simpson Elementary?

- 1. Be Respectful
- 2. Be Responsible
- 3. Be Ready to Learn
- 4. Be Safe
- 5. Be Kind

As part of our PBIS process, teachers and other staff members use evidence-based practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions. To keep students on the rules in a positive manner, we do the following when teaching academics and behavior:

- P Constantly teach and refer to our school-wide expectations.
- Provide students with more praise than correction.
- ▶ Talk to students with respect using a positive voice tone.
- P Actively engage everyone in the class during instruction.
- ▶ Use pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting as we teach.
- P Look for the positive first and provide positive, immediate, frequent, and explicit feedback.

Our students are motivated by receiving STARBUCK PBIS dollar incentives for recognition of positive student behavior. Students spend their Starbucks in our PBIS Store weekly during their grade level buying days. Students can choose tangible items such as erasers, snacks, bracelets, pop its, and more! We also sell coupons for various rewards such as show and tell, tell a joke on the morning news, and positive phone calls home! Lessons on saving and spending have been integrated and students have been eager shoppers!

Buying Days
Monday-5th grade
Tuesday-4th grade
Wednesday-2nd and 3rd grade
Thursday-1st grade
Friday-PreK and Kindergarten



#### Simpson Safety Plans

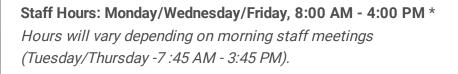
GCPS will continue to follow strict guidelines as it relates to safety & security by visitors <u>producing identification when inside</u> the vestibule to check out students (as well as during visiting lunch hours).

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#### **School Hours**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:15 PM

All visitors must sign-in at the welcome desk and please be prepared to provide some form of identification upon request.







#### **Administrative Team**

Principal- Dr. Taffeta Connery

Assistant Principal- Ms. Brandy Bosak, Grades 1, 3, & 5 Assistant Principal- Ms. Jeanette Johnson, Grades K, 2, 4 Assistant Principal- Ms. Stephanie Wells, Special Needs &

Connections



# SIMPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Recognized as one of the "Best Elementary Schools" by U.S. News & World Report

#### https://www.gcpsk12.org/SimpsonES

Georgia Platinum Award 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 and 2019! 2010 Georgia School of Excellence!

2012 and 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence!

# Proud to be a National PTA® School of Excellence



2021-2023

## PTA School of Excellence | Family Engagement Survey

Our school's PTA is participating in the National PTA School of Excellence program, which grows partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the education and well being of all students. As a part of this process, National PTA requests feedback from families, administrators, and teachers at two points during the school year, this is the second. Your feedback will help us improve our family-school partnership. Please take a few minutes to fill out this short survey.

As a gentle reminder, Dr. Connery shared an update concerning Simpson Elementary School's budget at our PTA's 2nd General Members Meeting on February 8, 2024 those meeting minutes including the school's budget can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>. Additionally, the PTA's budget for the 2023-2024 School Year can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.





The PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

When you join the Parent Teacher Association at Simpson Elementary by giving your time, talent and resources, you join our collective efforts in promoting quality education, arts, and community involvement to build a healthy environment and safe neighborhood for all of our families. Because of the generous

support from our parents, grandparents, teachers, staff and business partners we are able to offer many academic and social opportunities that may not otherwise be able to take place.

Did you know the Simpson PTA sponsors and coordinates over **30 programs** each school year through the generous support of our Simpson families and business partners? Every dollar raised goes directly to programs and events that benefit our Simpson Superstar students, staff, and facilities.

Visit our <u>website</u> and join our <u>PTA Facebook page</u> to stay connected!

# Mark Your Calendar

April 30 - June 17 | Order School Supply Kits for Next School Year - Click here for information

May 3 | Kindergarten Screening Day

May 9 | End of the Year SPED Staff Appreciation Luncheon

May 14 | All Pro Dads, 7 AM

May 14 | Starburst | 1st, 9:45-11:30, K, 1:15-3:00 - Sign up to Volunteer

May 15 | Starburst | 3rd, 9:45-11:30, 2nd, 1:15-3:00 - Sign up to Volunteer

May 16 | Starburst | 5th, 9:45-11:30, 4th, 1:15-3:00 - Sign up to Volunteer

May 17 | End of the Year Staff Appreciation Luncheon

May 20 | 5th Grade Sock Hop - Sign up to Volunteer

May 20 | End of the Year Parties | 2nd, 10:15-11:15, 1st, 12:40-1:40, 3rd, 2:00-3:00 - Sign up to

Volunteer

May 21 | 5th Grade Promotion @ Paul Duke High School, 6:30 PM

May 22 | End of the Year Parties | 4th, 9:45-10:45, PreK, 11:00-12:00 | K, 12:15-1:15 | 5th, 1:30-2:30 - Sign up to Volunteer

May 22 | 5th Grade Walk

May 22 | Last Day of School

# Volunteer Opportunities

#### **Open PTA Positions**

<u>Please click here to see the website for more details!</u>
E-mail <u>co-president2@simpsonespta.org</u> with any questions

**Open/Upcoming Executive Roles:** 

**★VP** of Finance

**Open/Upcoming Committee Roles:** 

★ Reflections ★ Starry, Starry Night ★ Talent Show

#### **General Volunteer Opportunities**

Media Center Volunteers who will shelve books, laminate for the staff, help students check
out and return books, and/or complete other small tasks with which Mrs. Dierkes might need
assistance. Please note that Media Center volunteer shifts are now only one hour, and this
opportunity is open to parents, guardians, and grandparents.

Please visit the <u>Volunteer page of the PTA website</u> to stay current on open and upcoming PTA positions, and general volunteer opportunities.

# Supply Kits

Order School Supply Kits for next school year!

Now through June 17th

School ID: SIM037 (3 letters/3 numbers)

Click here to learn more

# Make Back to School Easier with EPI School Supply Packs Teacher Approved • Delivered Before the Educational Products, Inc First Day of School • Save Time & Money Main Order SHOP 6/17 Deadline: NOW Our School ID: **SIM037**

www.EducationalProducts.com/ShopPacks

#### **Starburst**

Starburst is non-competitive event in which the students participate in over 40 centers & enjoy some extra time being active outside. Please remind your child to wear their Starburst shirt on this day.

#### SCHEDULE:

#### Tuesday, May 14th

1st Grade - 9:45a-11:30am Kindergarten - 1:15p-3:00pm

Click here to volunteer for K-1st Starburst

#### Wednesday, May 15th

3rd grade - 9:45a-11:30am 2nd grade - 1:15p-3:00pm

Click here to volunteer for 2nd-5th Starburst

#### Thursday, May 16th

Click here to volunteer for 2nd-5th Starburst

5th Grade - 9:45am-11:30am 4th Grade- 1:15pm to 3:00pm



Friday, May 17th - rain make up day

Kindergarten and 1st grade students will be placed in small groups of 2-4 students. Volunteers will lead a group around to the centers. Peer leaders will be at each center. We also need volunteers to help with the student water coolers and popsicles.

2nd through 5th grade students are free to move about at their own pace choosing centers they would like to try. Volunteers for these grades will run and score the students scorecard. Parents will sign up for a center they want to work at when they arrive to the gym on the day they are volunteering. We also need volunteers to help with the student water coolers and popsicles.

Please send any questions to Misty Ratchford: Misty.M.Ratchford@Gmail.com

## All Pro Dads

Tuesday, May 14th @ 7:00 AM \$3 CASH per person - includes breakfast for kids Please register <u>here</u>



# End of the Year Parties

Click here to Volunteer

End of the Year Party Schedule Monday, May 20 **2nd,** 10:15 AM-11:15 AM **1st,** 12:40 PM-1:40 PM **3rd,** 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Wednesday, May 22 4th, 9:45 AM-10:45 AM PreK, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM K, 12:15 PM-1:15 PM 5th, 1:30 PM-2:30 PM



# Looking Ahead - Sneak Peek at '24-'25 Reflections



'24-'25 Reflections Applications, Instructions, and Submission

Deadline will be available in the fall

National PTA's Reflections Program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts.

This 50+ year old program helps students explore their own feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and develop a love of learning.

The theme for the '24-'25 program year is

Accepting Imperfection

Students will submit their completed, <u>original</u> works of art in one or all of the available Arts categories:

- Dance Choreography Film Production Literature
  - Music Composition Photography Visual Arts

#### Next School Year's 2024-2025 PTA Executive Board

On Thursday April 25, 2024 at the PTA's 3rd General Members Meeting, the Executive Board for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year was approved.

Meeting Minutes for all of the PTA's General Members Meetings as well as the Executive Board Meetings throughout the year can be found <a href="here">here on the PTA website</a>.



Outgoing Co-President | Maxine McClure Incoming Co-President | Jordan Mallory Treasurer | Phil Hebenstreit Secretary | Misty Ratchford

VP of Academics + Arts | Diana Shehadeh
VP of Communications + Publications | Indira Hodge
VP of Family + Community | Kara Conrad
VP of Finance | Heather Reich
VP of Health + Environment | Laura Fairchild
VP of Staff + Student Services | Christina DelGaudio



## Thank Yous - Last Month's Events

Thank you Business Partners Chair, Heather Reich for our Spirit Week with IceBox Cryotherapy

Thank you **Earth Week Chair, Shana Cooper** for supporting a local Girl Scout Troop in making darling bird houses for our school, and for sending home a fun and informative flyer.

Thank you **5th Grade Class Coordinators, Gina Mistacawi, Aminta Wu, and Kelly Belin** for all of your hard work in the sale and distribution of 5th grade yard signs, as well as planning the logistics for the upcoming Sock Hop, and assisting with 5th grade promotion where needed.

Thank you All Pro Dads Chair, Tony Pirozzi for another enriching All Pro Dads.

Thank you **Nominating Committee**, **Julie Miller**, **Jordan Mallory**, **Jillian Friedensohn**, **Kendra**, **Leblang**, **and alternate Kelsey Dykes** for your tireless work from February through April to fill open Executive Board seats for the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year.

A HUGE Superstar THANK YOU to this school year's 2023-2024 Executive Board



Outgoing Co-President | Mary Catherine Jennings Incoming Co-President | Maxine McClure Treasurer | Phil Hebenstreit Secretary | Misty Ratchford

VP of Academics + Arts | Megan Bunce

VP of Communications + Publications | Beth Goldstein

VP of Family + Community | Stacie Olson

**VP of Finance | Heather Reich** 

VP of Health + Environment | Emma Keith

**VP of Staff + Student Services | Julie Miller** 

grateful for all of your hard work!

Business Sponsors
Platinum Level Sponsors

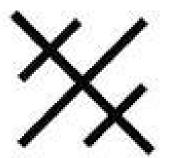


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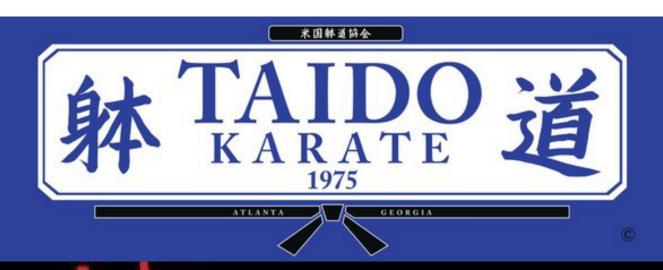
# WigganLow TAX RESOLUTION ATTORNEYS

Silver Level Sponsors



# RO





# HNASIUM The Math Learning Center

Berkeley Lake 770-881-8462

Bronze Level Sponsors







